

I ask Members to join me in honoring the Exchange Club members in my Texas congressional district and across the country for their dedication and excellence in serving the Nation's communities.

HONORING DR. WILBUR F.
DOLEZAL

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and dedication of an outstanding dentist, Dr. Wilbur F. Dolezal, after 43 successful years of practicing dentistry.

Dr. Dolezal received his bachelors degree from the University of Illinois and his dental degree from Loyola University, Chicago, IL.

Dr. Dolezal served his country in the U.S. Air Force as a dentist from 1954 to 1956. He has had a thriving practice in Morris, IL, for the past 40 years.

Dr. Dolezal has been honored by his peers for his superior knowledge as a Fellow of both the International College of Dentistry and the American College of Dentistry.

Dr. Dolezal has been active in his community as a member of the Morris Rotary Club, the Morris High School Board of Education, and as a member and president of the Grundy County Board of Health.

Dr. Dolezal is a well respected dentist and member of his community and it is with great regret, but also a bright white smile, that his patients see him retire.

IN HONOR OF THE ONE YEAR AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE ASIA OB-
SERVER

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the publisher and hard-working staff of the Asia Observer on their 1-year anniversary of outstanding service to the South Asian community. It is an honor to join other elected officials and organizations in lauding the achievements of a weekly publication recognized worldwide for its excellent news coverage and analysis on events and issues affecting the South Asia and South Asians.

In its first full year, the Asia Observer has distinguished itself as a valuable source of information on South Asia affairs. Additionally, it has helped bridge the gap of understanding among the growing Asian-American population in our great Nation. Since its inaugural edition 1 year ago, the Asia Observer has gained the respect and praise of many, including several of my esteemed colleagues in Congress, prominent business owners, professionals, and community leaders. With weekly coverage of socially, politically, and economically significant topics, the Asia Observer has become what many other ethnic news publications can only hope to become, a credible source of information in the United States and throughout the international community.

As the dawning of the next millennium approaches, all regions of the world are shifting ever closer toward globalization. The role of news sources like the Asia Observer will assume a greater importance in the affairs of the United States and our neighbors both home and abroad. It is through the efforts of news journals such as the Asia Observer that our lines of communication with other countries in the South Asia region, including India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan continue to expand and grow. In just 1 year, this publication has managed to strengthen the sense of cooperation in this important region of the world by providing a useful vehicle for the exchange of information and ideas.

I ask that my colleagues join me today in acknowledging the contributions of the Asia Observer, a publication that has provided a welcome voice to the Asian-American community in issues of international and domestic importance. I firmly believe that by keeping people in touch with the issues that affect their daily lives, the Asia Observer will contribute to the growth of the South Asian region for many years to come. For this reason, I commend Mr. Surinder Zutshi and his entire staff for their efforts in providing the world a window through which it can observe the achievements of the Asian community.

NEW RETIREMENT OPTION FOR
SENIORS

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today that will allow older Americans to stay in their homes while taking advantage of the exclusion of up to \$125,000 in gains on sale of a principal residence. This is a badly needed option for those who wish to use the equity in their home for retirement needs without having to leave the family home.

An AARP survey shows that 86 percent of seniors prefer to stay in the family home, yet for a great number of older Americans, home equity is a major component of their savings. Seniors who need additional income in their retirement can face a troubling dilemma: they may have to give up the house to meet their needs.

The bill will aid seniors by altering our approach to the \$125,000 exclusion. As currently interpreted by the IRS, the exclusion of \$125,000 in gain is only available to seniors when they sell their homes and move away, literally forcing people to move to get the tax break. Their other alternatives—both of which allow them to claim the exclusion—are taking out a reverse mortgage or selling their home and leasing it back. Not all seniors will find these devices helpful. Reverse mortgages leave homeowners with the burden of maintaining the home. Sale/leaseback transactions may not provide seniors with the certainty that they will be able to continue occupying their homes.

The bill's new alternative will permit seniors to sell the "remainder interest"—the right to future ownership—in their home and keep the "life estate"—the right to use the house for the rest of their lives. Such an option does not qualify for the exclusion today.

With all the concern about retirement savings, taxpayers can only benefit through the provision of additional options. I hope my colleagues will join me in making this option available as soon as possible.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LADY BUFFS

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great honor to give tribute to the West Texas A&M Lady Buffs of Canyon, TX. The Lady Buffs' historic winning season ended with an unfortunate, but hard-fought loss in the quarterfinals of the Elite Eight Tournament to California-Davis.

The Lady Buffs, who are led by their coach Bob Schneider, finished the season with 29 victories and only 2 losses. This is the best season that the Lady Buffs have had since the 1990-91 team, and the first time that the Lady Buffs have been in the Elite Eight since the 1987-88 season. As an alumnus of West Texas A&M, I am very proud of the Lady Buffs and their achievement this season.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Lady Buffs on their winning season. They have brought pride and respect to not only their team and coaches, but also to West Texas and the hometowns of all of the players.

EXEMPT SCHOOL BOARDS FROM
LIABILITY FOR THE GENERA-
TION AND TRANSPORTATION OF
MUNICIPAL WASTE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce two bills to make important changes to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

The first of these bills will address a problem that confronts school districts across the Nation. This legislation would amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act to exempt school boards from liability for the generation and transportation of municipal waste.

Under current law, a number of school boards in New Jersey are involved in legal action as polluters under existing Superfund law. These school districts did nothing more than legally transport their sold waste—remains of school lunches, broken pencils, or students crumpled homework pages—to municipal landfills. Under the system of joint and several liability, school boards are now being mandated to pay a substantial amount of cleanup costs or defend themselves in costly lawsuits. The costs of these financial penalties have far exceeded any contributions that they have made to toxic waste problems. Furthermore, this present situation indirectly shifts money and local tax dollars away from educating our children and into the coffers of industrial polluters or the Superfund trust fund.

Unfortunately, a legislative solution to the larger issue of Superfund reform has prevented action on an explicit exemption for